COOKIA

Journal of the Wellington Shell Club, New Zealand

VOLUME 19, NOVEMBER 2007

NEW ZEALAND SHELL SHOW 2007

CISSY BAY WEEKEND – A DREDGING TRIP

MICROWAVE ANIMALS FROM THEIR SHELLS

NOTES ON NEW ZEALAND COLLECTED SPECIES

COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS

Editor's Choice

Globisinum drewi (Murdoch, 1899), 47mm x 43mm – "Best New Zealand Specimen" (2007 NZ Shell Show) – Jenny Raven collection.

Cookia Volume 19, November 2007

© Wellington Shell Club 2007

ISSN-1171-140X

FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Cookia sulcata (Gmelin, 1791)
Height 77.8mm
Collected from Oraka Beach, Mahia,
New Zealand by Kris Woods.

Contents

Cookia Volume 19, 2007

	PAGE
NEW ZEALAND PEA CRABS AND THEIR BIVALVE PODS by John Yaldwyn	2-4
THE 2007 NEW ZEALAND SHELL SHOW various contributors	5-11
CISSY BAY WEEKEND – A DREDGING TRIP by Pat Lakeman	12-13
USING A MICROWAVE TO REMOVE ANIMALS FROM THEIR SHELLS by Kris Woods	14
BE AWARE OF LAWS RELATING TO SHELLS by Selwyn Bracegirdle	15
PAPER REVIEW by Pat Lakeman	15
KEPPEL BAY AND TOWNSVILLE SHELL SHOWS 2007 by Heather Smith	16-17
NOTES ON NEW ZEALAND COLLECTED SPECIES various contributors	18-19
COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS photos from Heather Smith	20
CHARLES FLEMING – ENVIRONMENTAL PATRIOT book introduced by Selwyn Bracegirdle	21
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SHELL COLLECTOR – PUZZLE by Pat Lakeman	22

Editorial

The main event for the Wellington Shell Club this year was hosting the 2007 New Zealand Shell Show in January.

This event was a great success. There was a significant turnout by the public which stemmed from the excellent publicity generated through the newspapers. Posters were distributed around the community and when the weekend arrived so too did the good weather.

The event was well supported by club members with a record number of exhibits. A number of overseas dealers made an appearance and it was a delight to have so many shell collecting Aussies make the effort to come and enjoy the event with their Kiwi friends.

When members of the public asked when the next Shell Show would be there was genuine disappointment at waiting four years for it to return to Wellington.

One of the pleasing aspects of hosting this Shell Show was the addition of new members. It is always a boost to have new enthusiastic collectors and the latest members have not disappointed.

As the Auckland club start preparing for the next New Zealand Shell Show in 2009 I am sure there will be many of the Wellington Shell Club planning to travel north with their exhibits.

Well done to everyone who contributed so much to making the 2007 New Zealand Shell Show such a success!

New Zealand Pea Crabs and their Bivalve Pods

by John Yaldwyn[1]

It is a pity that conchologists no longer refer to bivalve molluscs as "pelecypods" as my first choice as a title for this note was "New Zealand pea crabs and their pelecypods."

Shell collectors fossicking about in rock pools and mudflats, and even on sandy beaches, are likely to encounter some of our local crabs. They are rather interesting in the variety of the body forms and habits, and some, like the paddle crabs which sometimes annoy swimmers on sandy beaches, have economic potential. There are about 160 species of crabs so far known from New Zealand with quite a few deepwater species awaiting formal scientific description plus a increasing number of 'foreign' species being intercepted in biosecurity work such as the recent collections made by NIWA and Ministry of Fisheries survey of New Zealand ports.

'True crabs' or Brachyura, in contrast to 'half crabs' such as the ubiquitous New Zealand intertidal porcellanid *Petrolisthes elongatus* and the hermit crabs (the Paguridae, with some 43 New Zealand species) which live in many of the shells that we collect, are as the name Brachyura implies "short-tailed" decapod ("ten-footed") crustaceans. The "tail" or abdomen is small, straight, symmetrical, bent under the thorax, and shows no trace of function other than reproduction (female 'true crabs', as with most decapod crustaceans, carry their egg-mass attached to abdominal biramous appendages called pleopods). The 6th or ultimate abdominal segment in Brachyura does not carry the double-bladed appendages (known as uropods) that form the characteristic tail-fan of most other decapods such as shrimp, prawns, crayfish, half-crabs and their relatives. Brachyura also have short rather than elongate antennae. Half-crabs, hermit crabs and king crabs belong to a group of decapods called Anomura with "reduced tails", whereas shrimps, prawns and crayfish can be conveniently referred to as the Macrura, having well-developed tails or abdomens which, together with their tail-fans, act as powerful swimming organs.

The true crabs are divided into two general groupings and some minor specialised families. The main groupings, Brachyrhyncha – with a rectangular, oval or round body shape and a "square or broad front" and the Oxyrhyncha with a triangular body shape and a "narrow front". Shore crabs (family Grapsidae), swimming crabs (Portunidae), black-fingered or xanthid crabs, and pea crabs (Pinnotheridae) are all typical broad-fronted Brachyura, whereas spider crabs (Majidae), and sea-spiders[2] (Hymenosomatidae) are the characteristic triangular narrow-fronted brachyurans. Dromiid sponge crabs (Dromiidae), antlered crabs (Homolidae), box crabs (Calappidae), pebble crabs (Leucosiidae) and frog crabs (Raninidae) are all specialised stand-alone families outside the two main groupings.

There are representatives of all the above brachyuran groupings and families in the New Zealand fauna although not all are found intertidally or in our shallow waters. If you want to learn more about New Zealand crabs, or try to identify them yourself, you'll need to go to Dr Colin McLay's Leigh Laboratory handbook (1988) which also contains some useful information on overseas studies relevant to some of our species. There's also a new guide written largely for Ministry of Fisheries Observers (Naylor *et al.* 2005) dealing with the deeper water species (unlikely to be seen, perhaps, by shell collectors) and a beginner's guide (now not so easy to find) by our own Dr Dick Dell (1963) which does cover most of the species on the shore and shallower waters. I do recommend the beautifully-illustrated article by John Walsby in *New Zealand Geographic* magazine (Walsby 1990).

In this note I would like to summarise for readers of *Cookia* some of the information available on one of the more unusual crab families represented in New Zealand waters, the pinnotherids or 'pea crabs', which are exclusively commensal, some might say parasitic, in a rather narrow range of bivalve molluscs.

New Zealand has only two species of pea crabs (although as many as 5 species were once thought be recognisable). They are very similar to each other, globular, plain coloured, undistinguished looking (so far as crabs go), pea to bean sized, usually found in the mantle cavity of some of our bivalve species – *Pinnotheres novaezelandiae* Filhol, 1885,

[1] Dr John Yaldwyn died on 9 October 2005. During his time as a member of the staff of the Dominion Museum, later as Director of the National Museum of New Zealand (now known as the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), he was always a good friend and supporter of the Wellington Shell Club, especially ensuring that the Club always had a 'home' at the Museum. He left the text of this note specifically for publication in *Cookia.*

[2] A quite different group of marine invertebrates, the Pycnogonida, allied to true spiders (Arachnida) are also commonly known as "Sea Spiders", their special claim to fame being that they have their stomachs extending into their legs!

characteristically in the green-lipped mussel *Perna canaliculus*, and *Pinnotheres atrinicola* Page, 1983 in the horse mussel *Atrina zelandica*. These two species are morphologically very similar, differing only in minor details of the first pleopod in males. Mature females of *P. novaezelandiae* have the legs on each side similar in length whereas the legs on one side are noticeably shorter than on the other side in *P. atrinicola*. Illustrations of both species showing these features can be found in Page's (1983) account of his newly-distinguished species *P. atrinicola*.

Pea crabs throughout the world live as commensals, that is, in the meaning of the word "dining at the same table", within bivalve molluscs, although there are some species, beyond New Zealand, that live in sea squirts, in the tubes of polychaete bristle worms, among the surface spines of sea urchins and, or in some rare cases, in gastropod molluscs (including species of *Haliotis*). They are of considerable economic importance, certainly in the Northern Hemisphere and probably here too (although local studies so far – e.g. Hickman 1978 – show minimal evidence), since their parasitizing effect can cause significant problems in the growth and condition of commercial molluscs (amongst other references, consult Silas & Alagarswami 1968; Bierbaum & Ferson 1986, and see McLay 1988). Their life history, with its peculiar 'instars', and 'hard' and 'soft' stages is interesting, even if rather complicated (see Page 1983) and there is still much to be found out, despite quite a few local studies (e.g. Jones 1975, 1977 a, b) and some rather esoteric genetical analyses (Stevens 1990 a, b; 1991 a, b) in addition to quite a volume of overseas studies. There is even an article in a similar shell club magazine exhorting members' interests and cooperation just as I am doing now (Pearce 1976) – although I never knew about this article when I had the idea of doing my own one!

Apart from generally introducing Shell Club members to these intriguing little crabs, the real purpose of this note is to seek the cooperation of enthusiastic members willing to examine any bivalve populations that they may encounter and do two things that could materially help to fill out the gaps in our knowledge of New Zealand pea crab species – 1. examine particularly specimens of the species listed in the "Species uncertain" column and send them in to the Crustacea Section at Te Papa where Rick Webber will identify them, and 2. even for the better-known species with their known hosts, counts of infected bivalves would be valuable to show the relative proportions of each host species. Club members could do a most useful service in this way!

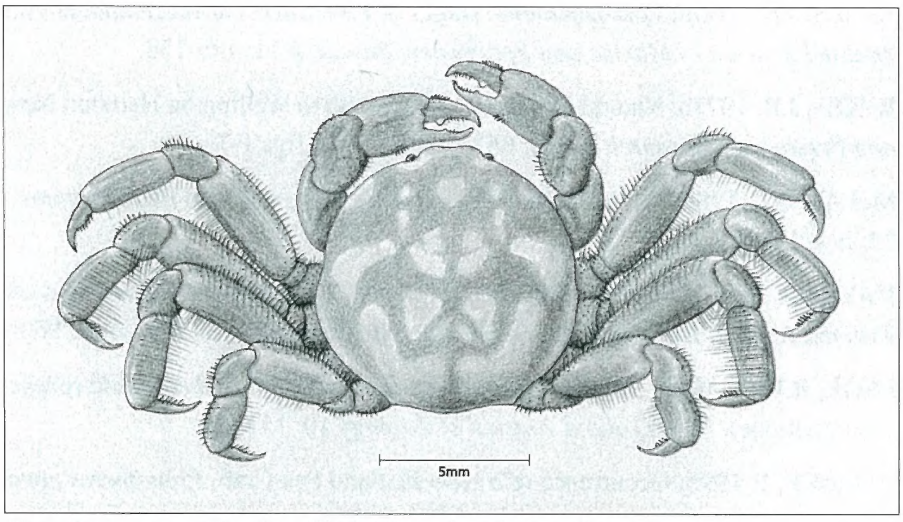


Illustration by Selwyn Bracegirdle

Pinnotheres novaezelandiae **Filhol, 1885 – dorsal view of a male.**

HOST RECORDS FOR NEW ZEALAND PEA CRABS

Pinnotheres novaezelandiae	***Pinnotheres atrinicola***	**Species uncertain**
Perna canaliculus 1, 2, 4	*Atrina zelandica* 2, 4	
Mytilus galloprovincialis 1, 2, 4	*Modiolus areolatus* 2	*Modiolus* sp. 2
Aulacomya maoriana 2, 4		
Crassostrea gigas 2, 4		*Ostrea chilensis* 2
Paphies ventricosa 2, 4		
		Pratulum pulchellum 2
Austrovenus stutchburyi 2, 4	*Austrovenus stutchburyi* 4	
		Limnoperna pulex 2
Mactra discors 4		
Mactra murchisoni 4		*Resania lanceolata* 2
Mactra ovata 3		
Spisula aequilatera 1 ?	*Spisula aequilatera* 4	*Spisula aequilatera* 2
Pecten novaezelandiae 4		*Pecten novaezelandiae* 2

Species in which pea crabs were searched for by Palmer (1995) but not found ...

Paphies donacina, *Dosinia anus*.

Species verified as in more than one species of bivalve: *Austrovenus stutchburyi*.

Information sources: 1. Scott 1961 [under *P. novaezelandiae* she listed "*Modiolus neozelanicus*" (i.e. *Limnoperna pulex*), *Spisula aequilatera*, *Resania lanceolata*, and *Atrina zelandica*, the last named since recognised as the principal host of *P. atrinicola*] ; 2. Page 1983 [he suggested that the pinnotherids inhabiting *Spisula aequilatera* and *Mactra discors* may be host-specific races of *P. novaezelandiae*]; 3. Stevens 1992; 4. Palmer 1995

REFERENCES

BIERBAUM, R.M.; FERSON, S. 1986: Do symbiotic pea crabs decrease growth rates in mussels? *Biological Bulletin*, Woods Hole 170: 51-61.

DELL, R.K. 1963: *Native Crabs. Nature in New Zealand.* Wellington: A.H. & A.W. Reed. 64 p.

HICKMAN, R.W. 1978: Incidence of a pea crab and a trematode in cultivated and natural green-lipped mussels. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 12 (2): 211-216.

JONES, J.B. 1975: *Studies on Animals closely associated with some New Zealand marine Shellfish.* Ph.D. Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington.

JONES, J.B. 1977a: Post-planktonic stages of *Pinnotheres novaezelandiae* Filhol, 1886 (Brachyura: Pinnotheridae). *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 11: 145-158.

JONES, J.B. 1977b: Natural history of the pea crab in Wellington Harbour, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 11 (4): 667-676, figs 1-4, figs 1-7.

McLAY, C.L. 1988: Crabs of New Zealand. Brachyura and crab-like Anomura of New Zealand. *Leigh Laboratory Bulletin* 22: iv + 1-464.

NAYLOR, J.R.; WEBBER, W.R.; BOOTH, J.D. 2005: A guide to common offshore crabs in New Zealand waters. *New Zealand Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Report* No. 2: 1-47, illus. Wellington: Ministry of Fisheries.

PAGE, R.D.M. 1983: Description of a new species of *Pinnotheres*, and redescription of *P. novaezelandiae* (Brachyura: Pinnotheridae). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 10: 151-162.

PALMER, P. 1995: Occurrence of a New Zealand Pea Crab, *Pinnotheres novaezelandiae*, in five species of surf clam. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 46: 1071-1075.

PEARCE, J.B. 1976: Life history of mussel and oyster crabs. *New York Shell Club Notes* No. 223: 3-5.

SASTRA, A.N.; MENZEL, R.W. 1962: Influence of hosts on the behaviour of the commensal crab *Pinnotheres maculatus* Say. *Biological Bulletin*, Woods Hole 123 (2): 388-395.

SCOTT, M.S. 1961: A review of the New Zealand Pinnotheridae. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Zoology* 1: 301-309.

SILAS, E.G.; ALAGARSWAMI, K. 1967: On an instance of parasitization by the pea crab (Chemnitz)) from India, (*Pinnotheres* sp.) on the backwater clam (*Meretrix casta* (*Chemnitz*)) from India, with a review of the work on the systematic, ecology, biology and ethnology of pea crabs of the genus *Pinnotheres* Latreille. *Symposium on Crustacea, Marine Biological Association of India* 3: 1161-1227.

STEVENS, P.M. 1990a: A genetic analysis of the pea crabs (Decapoda: Pinnotheridae) of New Zealand. I. Patterns of spatial and host-associated genetic structuring in *Pinnotheres novaezelandiae* Filhol. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 141: 195-212.

STEVENS, P.M. 1990b: Specificity of host recognition of individuals from different host races of symbiotic pea crabs (Decapoda: Pinnotheridae). *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 143: 193-207.

STEVENS, P.M. 1991a: Molecular divergence and host relationships in the New Zealand representatives of the pea crab genus *Pinnotheres*. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 31: 99.

STEVENS, P.M. 1991b: A genetic analysis of the pea crabs (Decapoda: Pinnotheridae) of New Zealand. II. Patterns and intensity of spatial population structure in *Pinnotheres atrinicola*. *Marine Biology* 108: 403-410.

STEVENS, P.M. 1992: New host records for pea crabs (*Pinnotheres* spp.) symbiotic with bivalve molluscs in New Zealand (Decapoda, Brachyura). *Crustaceana* 63 (2): 216-220.

WALSBY, J. 1990: The secret world of crabs. *New Zealand Geographic* 8: 110-125.

The 2007 New Zealand Shell Show

Lower Hutt Town Hall, 27-28 January 2007

The last time the Wellington Shell Club hosted the New Zealand Shell Show was in 2002. Five years on and we thought the day would never come but when it did, it arrived with a bang. It was all on! I helped to organize this show and I quickly realized just how much work there is in making it a success.

The venue, as in 2002, was the Lower Hutt Town Hall. This is a spacious venue, plenty of parking outside, close to a major shopping centre and good accommodation. It was also held over the same weekend as the Fuchsia Show in the Horticultural Hall next door, an advantageous situation for both events.

The hall setup began in earnest early Friday morning so that exhibitors and dealers could begin displaying by 1pm. The tables were ready well before that time and I for one was very grateful as I had 26 displays to set up. "What was she thinking?" you may well ask. In mid 2006 I had decided I would enter in a big way and now that it was time to set them out, being able to do so in plenty of time, was a major bonus. Roger really appreciated that extra time as well, as he was setting out Heather Smith's displays (about 23). Heather was unable to attend the show as she was on a cruise ship with her sister at that time. They were enjoying a three week Antarctic cruise. Imagine putting in that many displays and not being there in person! I thought Heather deserved an award for that alone.

Exhibitors and dealers began arriving and the hall was buzzing with activity. The dealers at this show were Christopher Urben and Philippe Hirzel (New Caledonia), Ron Moylan (NSW), Peter Demertlis (W Australia), Barbara Jouvernaux, James Crossland, Doug and Judith Snook, Mike and Val Hart, Selwyn Bracegirdle and Pat Lakeman (New Zealand)

Ron Moylan and Peter Pienaar (both from NSW) had arrived earlier on Friday morning and had given very helpful support whilst our club was setting up.

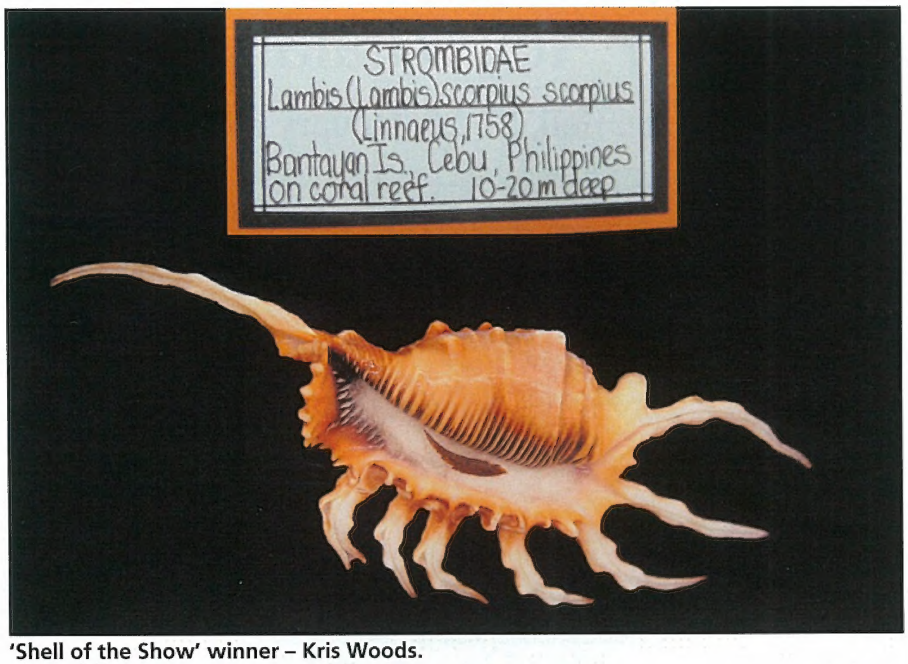
Around six o'clock the judges started to arrive to begin the difficult task of judging 32 categories (plus choose the winners of a few special awards). The judges were Ena Coucom (Keppel Bay, QLD), Mike Young, Bruce Marshall, Doug Snook, Derek Crosby, Elliot Dawson, Betty Grange, Claire Clark and Fred Wotton (New Zealand).

The interior of the Lower Hutt Town Hall showing exhibits being viewed by many visitors with shell dealer's tables in the foreground.

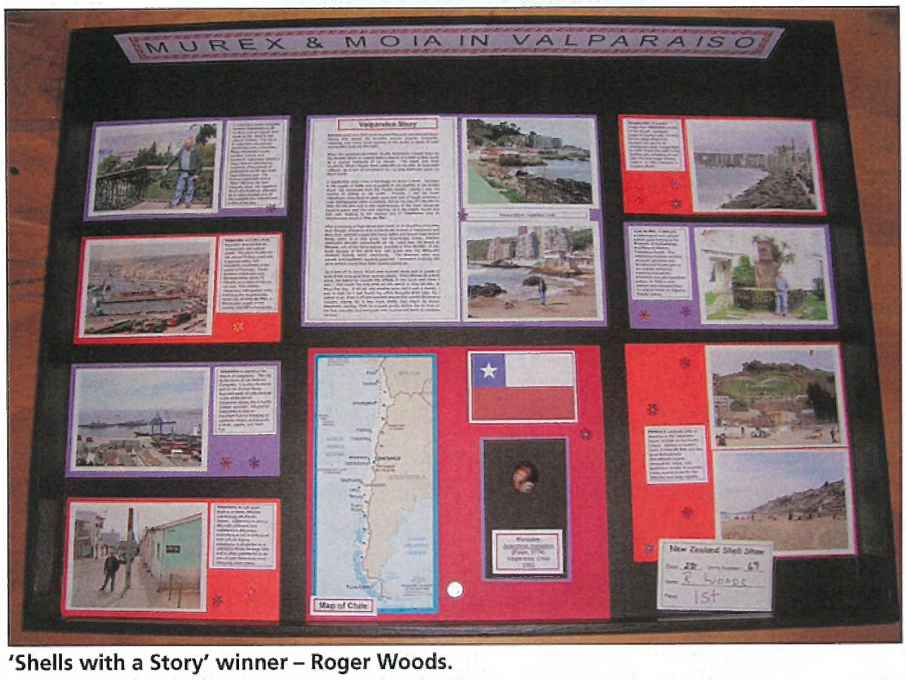
Allan Limpus (Bundaberg, QLD) had agreed to be a judge as well but most unfortunately he was unable to come. He was missed and not just for his judging but I'm sure Allan will attend future New Zealand shows. Ena obviously loves coming to our shell shows as this was one of many times she has been a judge. We would soon enjoy the company of all our Australian visitors over the weekend who made a special effort to come: Ena, Ron, Peter, also Dot and Ron Higgs from Keppel Bay Shell Club.

The sun shone brightly on Saturday morning and we could proudly show all our visitors, especially those from out of Wellington that we really do have fine, warm weather. Indeed it would prove to be a great weekend weatherwise. Doors opened early and from then on the public steadily came. I'm sure that one reason the public attendance was well up from the 2002 show was all the articles that appeared in a handful of community newspapers throughout the Wellington region. Each article featured a different member from our club who of course more than mentioned the up and coming New Zealand Shell Show. With around 180 displays and plenty of trading tables there were oodles of shells and shell related things to admire and buy. I certainly did both!

Competitors hunted out their exhibits and there were a lot of happy winners. I was staggered to see I had won a few firsts. I was truly surprised and thrilled to have won "Australian Shell of the Show" with a stunningly white *Murex queenslandicus*. I couldn't ask for more considering murices are my favourite shells. The biggest thrill for me was to discover that Roger had won first prize with his entry into "Shells with A Story". I have to say that his exhibit was outstanding. It featured a trip he made to Valparaiso, on the coast of Chile. He'd gone shell collecting for me and found one shell. That shell was most amazingly a little murex!!! Heather Smith was definitely rewarded for her big effort in entering in spite of the fact that she could not attend the show.



'Shell of the Show' winner – Kris Woods.



'Shells with a Story' winner – Roger Woods.

'Public Choice' winner – Selwyn Bracegirdle.

At 5pm the show was closed to the public and the prizegiving began soon after. There were quite a few surprises to be had at the prizegiving, one of them being Deirdre Standish receiving the "Novice Wellington Award". This show saw her competing for the first time and doing really well. A big thank you went to the judges.

Then it was on to a jovial and very filling dinner at the local Workingmen's Club. If you were hungry before the dinner then you certainly wouldn't have been afterwards as the selection was wide and plentiful.

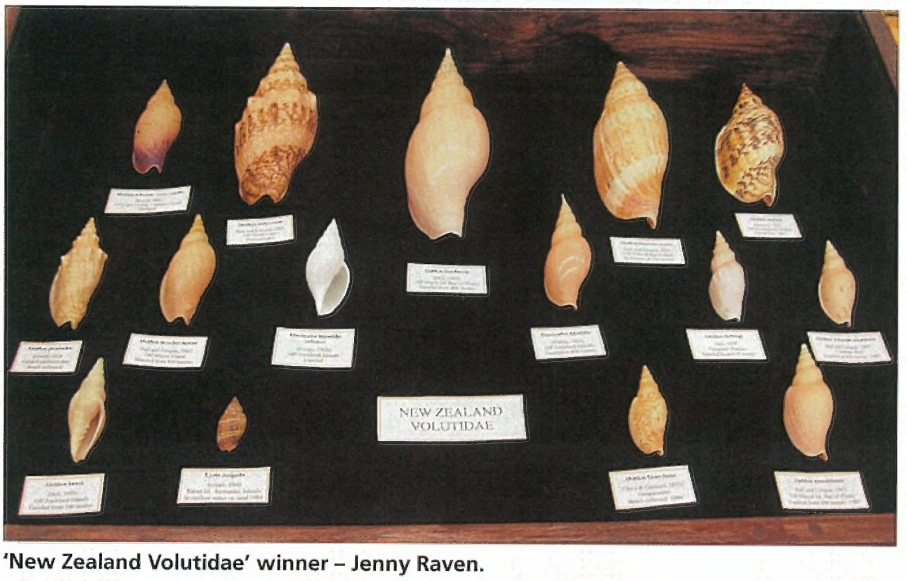
The doors opened at 10am on Sunday morning. We ran a sell- swap- buy session featuring shells from Ena Coucom (a special thanks to Ena for all her involvement in the show) and Jenny Raven. The public poured in during the day, in fact some were still there after 4pm when the show had closed and the exhibits were starting to be dismantled. Considering the number of exhibits involved we did the pack up speedily and were finished well before 6 pm. Time to say goodbye, unfortunately, to some of our shell friends but with talk of seeing everybody again, in hopefully 2 years time. It was a very successful show and people were feeling slightly flat as they packed up. However, with the thought of a social gathering at Jenny Raven's house the next afternoon we cheered up until the morrow.

Jenny lives on a high hill overlooking the entrance to Wellington Harbour. The view is breathtaking. The Public Raffle was drawn, a barbecue featuring our famous New Zealand Paua was enjoyed (Jenny and Pat Lakeman had personally collected those paua) and the results of the Public Choice vote were announced. Selwyn won with his entry in "Most Colourful Shells" – a very large and unusual display of highly-polished shells on a checkerboard of orange and green squares. The public loved it!

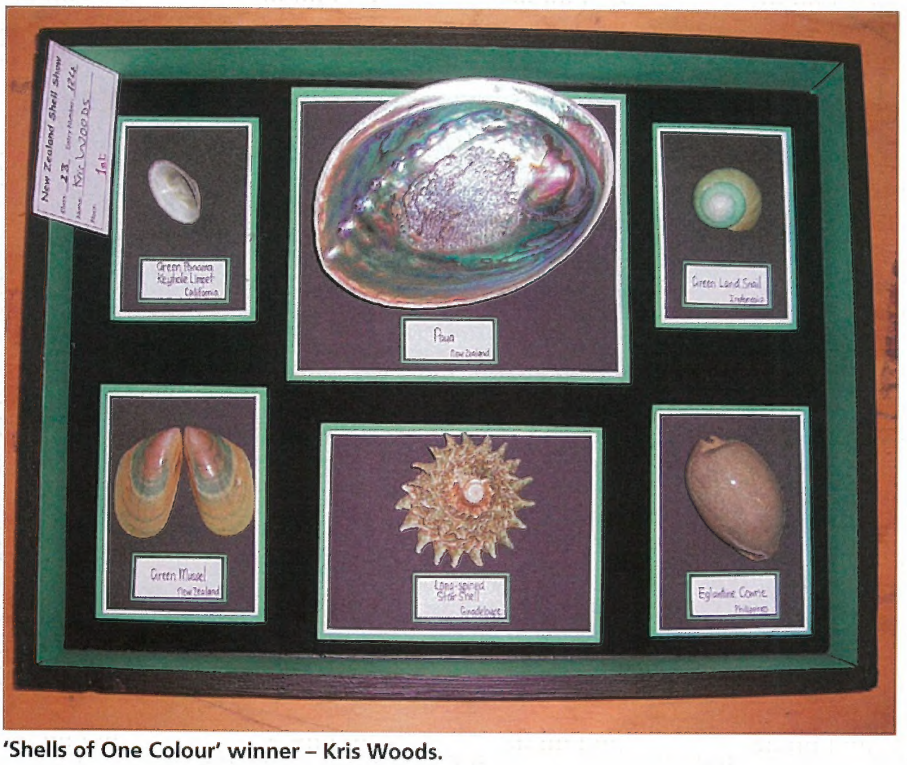
The 6th New Zealand Shell Show was over and we had enjoyed a wonderful event. We are all happy to sit back and relax now!! Just one last question though for the good folks at Townsville and Keppel Bay – "Where do you get all the energy from to run a show (and run them so well) every year?"

Kris Woods

'5 Shells with matching Stamps, Phonecards or Postcards' winner – Heather Smith with an all New Zealand shells entry.

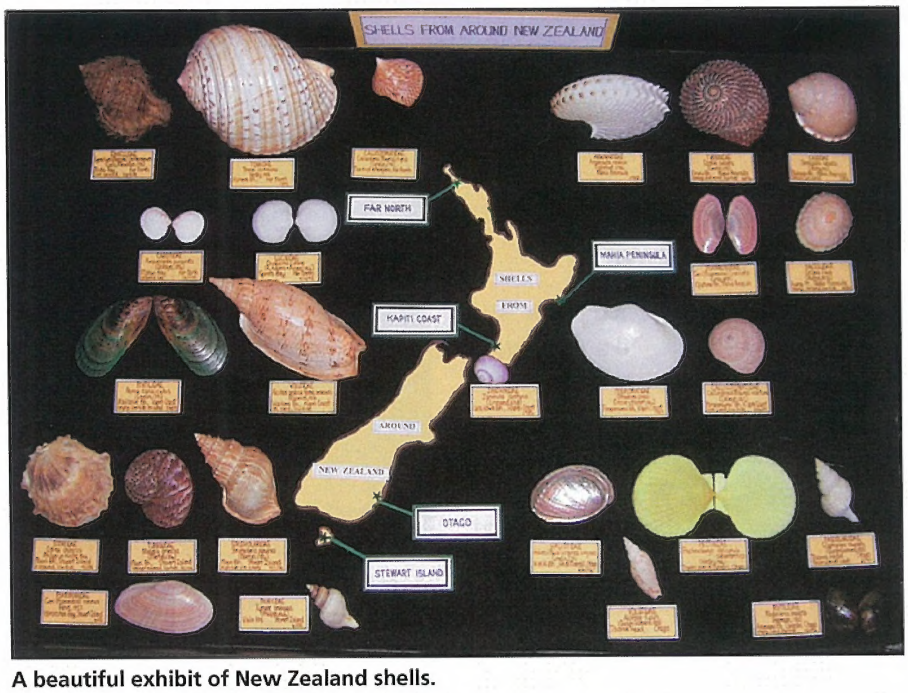


'New Zealand Volutidae' winner – Jenny Raven.



'Shells of One Colour' winner – Kris Woods.

'Photography' winner – Carolyn Krebs.



A beautiful exhibit of New Zealand shells.

A visitor's perspective

As I had never been to a shell show I went along to have a look and was amazed at what there was to see, from the huge conch shells to the tiniest shell.

As I wandered around the tables the colours and the textures ranging from the palest pinks to the darker shades and the patterns on some of the shells were exquisite almost as if they had been printed on.

On another table were white shells that looked as though the edges had been made from lace, so delicate and fragile they looked.

As I moved further on I came to a table and there was a small shell for sale worth $3,000. I was told it is how you retrieve the shell that gives it this price.

The two hours I was there were well worth it to see what beautiful shells come up from the seabed.

Barbara Renner

James showing Ian and Leita some of his shells.

From a collector of Strombs

As a collector of Strombidae in particular, I was expected (so several club members told me) to put at least one entry into the show – even though in the throes of packing my shell collection in preparation for shifting house. The reason I collect shells is because I love them and enjoy having them to drool over when the mood takes me but NOT for competing against other people. However, it was our club hosting this show so I entered in a couple of displays plus 3 single shells thinking this would be easy. Not so!! I seemed to spend a great deal of time changing my mind over which shells to use, how I would place them . . . .etc. Then, before I knew it, it was Friday 26th January and time to head out to the Lower Hutt Town Hall to set up my displays. THE SHOW HAD BEGUN!

The next 2 days were a blur of meeting up with old friends (so lots of chatting) . . . taking a stint or two at the door . . . . . .selling our club to the public and answering all sorts of questions . . . . . .looking (umpteen times) at the beautiful displays my fellow club members had created . . . . . .looking longingly at the various dealers' tables . . . . buying the odd shell or two . . . . .enjoying the presentation of prizes get together . . . . . going out for dinner . . . . .more chat about shells and after all that planning and organizing, it was time to pack up. The show was over.

Anyway, a great big thank you to all those unnamed people who bull dozed me into entering – I had a brilliant time . . . .and it took my mind off shifting for a short while!

Deirdre Standish

The Number One Ladies Security Agency

"I shall call myself 'The Number One Ladies Security Agency'," I said to Pat Lakeman at the adjacent table, knowing that she would appreciate the allusion.

One was the operative word – only one lady, one job, and one offer for it. The question of security arose at our final committee meeting before the show, and after modestly holding back to give the others a chance, I rushed in where everyone else feared to tread and said that I would do it. This immediately made the logistics of getting to the hall more difficult – instead of going in and out each day, I had to plan for a 3 day weekend in Lower Hutt. Luckily, John Little obligingly allowed his arm to be twisted, and picked up a boot-load of stuff from me on Thursday evening. While we loaded his car, he was rewarded by the spectacle of two tow trucks very efficiently removing cars from the other side of the street – half a dozen gone in ten minutes. He felt that he had had a narrow escape, and said that such things didn't happen in his neighbourhood. This left me with just the things I needed to have with me on Friday morning to lug aboard the bus.

Pat and Graham arrived at the Lower Hutt town hall soon after me, and we enjoyed a few quiet moments before the tables arrived. Then it was all systems go for the rest of the day – tables, decorations, exhibits, judging – suddenly it was night. The judges were leaving, and there was I, armed with a pair of crutches and a borrowed phone, wondering what I had let myself in for. I decided to base myself in the supper room – there were comfortable chairs and the lighting was easy to work. There were also a number of fridges and a Coca-cola dispenser, which switched their motors on and off noisily through the night – funny I hadn't noticed them during the day.

The hall was checked very thoroughly and often that night – every little noise got me up to look around. I picked up bits of paper, adjusted decorations, wrote a couple of signs, set out the table of craft shells, and generally filled in time until Jenny and Kerry arrived, and the morning began.

The next night was easier, perhaps helped by the good dinner that evening, with plenty of food and drink. A little highlight for me was finding a sheriff's badge, just exactly what Graham needed, and after several eagle-eyed shell collectors had walked right past it. After a noisy, convivial evening, some kind person dropped me back at the hall, and I was on duty again, a little more confident than the previous night, and even able to doze off once or twice. I had thought that everyone would be later on Sunday morning, but first Kris arrived very early, then Selwyn was pounding at the door, soon followed by other dealers wanting admittance. My security job was safely over.

Jill Burnet

Some of the Judges.

Kris the overall winner with Jenny.

A Show for Family and Friends

The 2007 Shell Show was great. I went with family and friends whose ages spanned four decades, and their interests even more, and no-one was bored. Shells are very accessible – so everyone could simply appreciate the beauty of their form and patterning.

The more refined appreciated the perfection and rarity of individual specimens, whilst the collectors collected, the shoppers shopped, and the foodies' eyes lit up when any edible, or even potentially edible species was spotted.

Because I like the shell stories as much as their style, the highlight for me was seeing the Spondylus display and musing on the long fascination man has had with shells.

I had just read a book on 5000 year old Incan mummies who were buried 20,000 feet up the Andean mountains along with statues of llamas carved from Spondylus shells.

A long way from the sea and simple necessity.

It was nice to think that in 2007 the fascination continues.

Footnote: My daughter advises me that the oldest shell necklace in the world is 95,000 years old.

Slick, Shiny, Common, Colourful, Instructive, Rare, Perfect....

I loved the variety of the 2007 Shell Show.

I loved looking at the slick, the shiny, the common, the colourful, the instructive, the rare, the perfect.

Most of all though I loved being able to touch some of the shells on the stall. To feel the smoothness, the weight, the sharpness of the spines – to know things that mere looking lacks; and as an added bonus to be easily able to afford to take some home.

The 2007 Shell Show displays were so good I tried to bribe my family and friends to give me their voting slips so I could choose more than one winner.

Baskets, Cellophane, Ribbons and Wrap

When is a kitchen not a kitchen? When it's a production line for baskets of shells. Take one average sized kitchen, not very tidy to start with, cover the floor with bags of shells roughly graded according to size and shape, pile the chairs with cellophane, black cloth, florist's wrap, glad wrap, and gift ribbon, strew the table with glue stick, oil, sellotape, scissors, knife, tweezers, and lastly add a rubbish sack full of little baskets. The result won't win an ideal home competition. However, I found it was a good place to use – every time I boiled the kettle or cooked some food, all the stuff was there, under my nose, and I was motivated to get on with the job.

I don't think I ever really worked out which comes first, the basket or the shell. Somehow one just has to chance upon an arrangement of shells and a basket which suit each other. I found it best to roughly arrange several baskets of shells in one session, until inspiration waned. Then next time I came into the kitchen, I had a fresh look at them, fiddled around with them a bit, and then got stuck into the job of lining the baskets, oiling the shells and putting them back, covering with cellophane, finishing the whole thing off with a bit of ribbon, and – hey presto – an irresistible sales item for our show. We weren't actually convinced of this, and I was so anxious about them that I stationed myself behind that sales table to watch over them. Huge relief when the first ones sold, and then more and more. Even if we didn't quite make a fortune out of them, it had been worth the effort. And the moral to this little tale – any shell can be useful, can find its niche market. Never throw anything away. It's the perfect justification for being a hoarder.

Jill Burnet

Jenny.

Carolyn.

Ann & Derrick.

Pat.

Deirdre.

Mary-Agnes.

Pete.

Selwyn.

Roger.

The Saturday night dinner being enjoyed by all.

2007 NEW ZEALAND SHELL SHOW PRIZE WINNERS

Class No	Class Description	Ist Prize	2nd Prize	Highly Commended
1	New Zealand Calliostoma	D & A Crosby	Jenny Raven	
2	New Zealand Volutidae	Jenny Raven	Kris Woods	
3	New Zealand 4 Families	Jenny Raven	D & A Crosby	
4	New Zealand Self Collected	Jenny Raven	Pat Lakeman	
5	New Zealand Shells from One Locality	Jenny Raven	Selwyn Bracegirdle	
6	New Zealand Bivalves	Kris Woods	Jenny Raven	
7	Best Austrofusus glans	Selwyn Bracegirdle	Heather Smith	
8	New Zealand 5 Localities	Jenny Raven	Heather Smith	
9	Best NZ collected Semicassis pyrum	Selwyn Bracegirdle	Heather Smith	
10	New Zealand Single Specimen <50mm	Jenny Raven Heather Smith		
11	New Zealand Single Specimen >50mm	Jenny Raven	D & A Crosby	
12	One Family displaying NZ and World Wide species	Mary Agnes Wotton	Heather Smith	
13	World Wide 4 Families	Mary Agnes Wotton	D & J Snook	
14	World Wide Strombidae	Selwyn Bracegirdle	Deirdre Standish	
15	World Wide Muricidae	Kris Woods	D & A Crosby	
16	World Wide Open Family	Mary Agnes Wotton	Pat Lakeman	
16a	World Wide Cassidae	Pat Lakeman	R & E Grange	D & A Crosby
16b	World Wide Bivalves	Kris Woods	Heather Smith	
17	World Wide 10 Species	Kris Woods	Mary Agnes Wotton	
18	World Wide Shells from One Country	Kris Woods	Mary Agnes Wotton	Selwyn Bracegirdle
19	World Wide Single Specimen <50mm	D & A Crosby	Kris Woods	Deirdre Standish
20	World Wide Single Specimen >50mm	Kris Woods	Jenny Raven	
21	Variation of Species	Kris Woods	Mary Agnes Wotton	
22	Favourite Shells	Heather Smith	Mary Agnes Wotton	
23	Shells of One Colour	Kris Woods	Heather Smith	
24	Most Colourful Display	Selwyn Bracegirdle	Heather Smith	
25	Land / Freshwater or Fossil Shells	Pete Cresswell	D & J Snook	
26	5 Shells with matching Stamps, Phone or Postcards	Heather Smith	Heather Smith	Kris Woods
27	Scientific/ Educational Display	Kris Woods	Mary Agnes Wotton	
28	Shells with a story	Roger Woods	Kris Woods	
29	Freak shells	Pat Lakeman	Heather Smith	
30	Shells over 200mm	Judy Hardie	Judy Hardie	
31	Photography	Carolyn Krebs	Jim Harding	Heather Smith
32	Craft and Art	Selwyn Bracegirdle	Heather Smith	
33	Australian Shell of the Show	Kris Woods		
34	Best New Zealand Exhibit	Jenny Raven		
35	Best New Zealand Specimen	Jenny Raven		
36	Best World Wide Exhibit	Kris Woods		
37	Exhibitor's Choice	Kris Woods		
38	Public Choice	Selwyn Bracegirdle		
39	Novice Wellington Exhibitor	Deirdre Standish		
40	Shell of the Show	Kris Woods		
41	Special Award	R & E Grange		
42	Total Points Award	Kris Woods		

Cissy Bay Weekend – A Dredging Trip

by Pat Lakeman

Our flight landed early on a Friday afternoon in July – Jenny Raven, Carolyn Krebs and I were in Nelson to join Bert van Tiggele and Mike Young on a trip to Cissy Bay, in the Marlborough Sounds near French Pass. Two shell club members live at Cissy Bay – John Bottomley and Kevin Mead, whom we hadn't met before. John owns "Seventh Heaven" Eco Lodge, where we would stay, and Kevin who lives nearby would take us dredging if weather permitted. So this trip promised to be something really different!

Another club member, Ivan Burr, met us at the airport. Though neither he nor Doreen were able to join our trip they had arranged to give us lunch at their home overlooking the harbour and Rabbit Island, before we linked up with Bert and Mike. And a delicious lunch it was, after having made a quick stop en route at Tahunanui Beach where Doreen and Bert can sometimes be seen on their knees (says Ivan), peering at the many small shells washed up on the tideline. Beguiled by the good food, company and stunning views on such a beautiful day, we belatedly set off to the supermarket to stock up with food and drink, before heading for Bert and Jenny's lovely new home, which they had moved into only a week or so before. Meantime Mike had started out from Motueka, and by about 4pm we are all loaded into his 4WD to start the 2 hour trip to Cissy Bay.

It is dark by the time we arrive but not before we see beautiful views and the deepening sunset as we travel along the ridgelines. The last 20 km or so of the road is unsealed but would be navigable by ordinary cars in most weathers – a winding route that is best just taken easy. Our welcome to Cissy Bay is warm in every sense – John has lit the fire in the big, comfortable lounge of the lodge. John's white goats Sash and Ribbon come to look us over and seem to approve. We easily make ourselves comfortable – the lodge has a well-equipped kitchen and 3 large bedrooms each with 4-6 bunks, and 2 bathrooms. John and Kevin come in to chat – they both have boats, diving experience (Kevin and Mike share many stories about diving in the Solomon Islands) and a wealth of local knowledge. We make plans to dredge the next morning.

At 8am we are into the boat with Kevin, and John mans the tractor to launch us off Cissy Bay into calm water. There is no wind, the conditions seem perfect for dredging – but we must make the best of it because such conditions may not last. Dredges are Kevin's speciality: "Kev's Super Dredge" is acquiring a serious reputation, selling steadily in New Zealand and (thanks to the Internet) beginning to impress world-wide – a recent order was from Iceland! Our dredging targets today are shells and scallops. We head to our first stop at Richmond Bay, where we make 2 dredging runs. Further dredging is done at Ketu Bay, off Maude Island and at Horseshoe Bay – all made to look very easy by the combination of Kevin and Mike's expertise. Kevin is well practised using his dredge, and Mike takes the helm while the dredge is cast out and retrieved. Jenny has her video with her and takes some good footage.

We make five runs in all before the changing weather at midday convinces Kevin we should head home. After each run we have sorted our booty into buckets – scallops *Pecten novaezelandiae* for dinner, and shells to be shared out later. The shell haul includes some nice spiny murex *Poirieria zelandica*, file shells *Limaria orientalis* living particularly in the muddy debris inside dead scallops, fan shells *Talochlamys zelandiae* and *T. gemmulata* covered with sponge, half a dozen large *Austrofusus glans*, *Struthiolaria papulosa* and *S. vermis*, the little deep water venus shells *Notocallista multistriata*, plenty of strawberry cockles *Pratulum pulchellum*, a couple of *Alcithoe arabica* and some *A. fusus*, some *Neilo australis*, one or two *Dosinia greyi* and *Dosina zelandica*, a few *Amalda mucronata*, and a large but dead and damaged *Calliostoma waikanae*.

The rain has set in by the time we get back to Cissy Bay. John winches us and the boat onto dry land, so we don't get our feet wet! The fire is lit again thanks to John, but he is not impressed with our haul of scallops for dinner that night. He promises to turn them into scallop mornay, but will gather fresh mussels that afternoon to supplement our fare. Everyone including Kevin's wife Yvonne will gather at the lodge for dinner, but first we have time after lunch to explore a nearby rocky beach with Kevin. Low tide is around 2pm, and the little beach yields colourful little sunset shells *Gari stangeri* and the morning stars *Tawera spissa*. Turret shells *Maoricolpus roseus* are present and live *Buccinulum vittatum* under stones at low tide. Also live in the rocks are two types of rock borer shells – *Pholadidea suteri* and the angel wing borer *Barnea similis*. Mike breaks open large rocks to obtain good specimens of both. It is drizzly so we make our way back to the lodge. Brown o'clock is declared at a fairly early hour. We shell steaming piles of mussels delivered by John from the barbecue, and other food for dinner is prepared. A zany sharing out of most of our dredged shells takes place outside before dinner – some of it done more or less in the dark when we can barely see. Sash and Ribbon observe, possibly with amusement. We will sort the rest in the morning but meantime

Bert, Carolyn, Mike and Kevin with the dredge.

a vast amount of food is ready to be consumed. And much chatting follows – shells, the Sounds, dive stories, politics...

Next morning is cloudy and still and we wish we could go dredging again! After a leisurely breakfast we look first at Kevin's workshop where he makes his dredges. Then at his home we see many interesting items from the Solomon Islands, along with Kevin's shells from both New Zealand and the Pacific. These include a lovely *Xenophora neozelanica*, a beautiful Pacific trumpet shell, lovely cowries and pectens and a very large paua, *Haliotis iris*, from Stewart Island. In the process we meet and befriend Cheetah the cat, and appreciate Yvonne's steep garden in which daffodils and fuschias are her specialties. John predicts rain within 2 hours, and he isn't wrong – we lunch, pack up and tidy the lodge, realising that a weekend isn't long enough to stay here but very glad, nevertheless, that we came. John and Kevin have been great hosts and as Mike drives us steadily back to Nelson in the rain, we promise to return, for longer next time! Thanks to all my traveling companions for their good company and especially to John, Kevin and Yvonne for making our visit to Cissy Bay such a great weekend.

Sample of the shells collected by dredge on the trip.

Mike, Pat and Jenny making their selections from the dredge.

Using a Microwave to Remove Animals from their Shells

by Kris Woods

After our first trip to the Townsville Shell Show in 2004 Roger and I spent several days at beautiful Dingo Beach. This is 200 kms south of Townsville, in the Whitsunday Islands and is a very popular location for shell collecting. We had been told that its expansive sand flats and warm blue waters yielded an abundance of shells.

Dingo Beach lived up to it's reputation and I just couldn't resist picking up a plethora of shells. My rather large bag was soon full. Fellow collector and friend Doreen Burr had collected at Dingo Beach several times prior to our first visit and had suggested well before we went that I should use a microwave to remove the animals from their shells. Indeed, if I had not used the microwave I would never have been able to clean my haul in a short time - we were flying out a day later and I wasn't about to bring shells home with animals in them. The microwave proved it's weight in gold and the shells passed a rigorous inspection at Auckland Airport on our return. Thanks Doreen!

At Dingo Beach I placed bivalves which contained animals into hot water and the shells opened. I did, however, put some into the microwave and they opened very quickly. To date, I haven't used the microwave to remove animals from very shiny shells such as cowries or cones for fear that this method may damage the exterior. However, I have used the microwave on many other families (including Nassaridae and Muricidae at Dingo Beach, Cassidae at home) with no adverse effects on the shells.

MICROWAVE METHOD

Place a shell into a bag and seal it. Use an appropriately-sized resealable bag. Place the bag into the microwave and use high power. Some shells only take about 10 to 15 seconds, others may take 40 seconds.

Usually you will know when the animal has become detached from the shell as you will hear and/or see the animal pop out inside the bag. Hopefully the animal will come out of the shell intact. Sometimes it takes a couple of attempts to achieve this. After the animal has left the shell, carefully open the bag (by now the shell and the bag are very hot). If the animal remains partly in the shell gently help it out with a pair of tweezers or any long piece of metal which can reach up and pull the animal out.

Then hold the shell under a cold water tap which has a very vigorous flow. This will hopefully force any animal remnant out. Do this with any shell whether it has animal remnant in it or not.

Through trial and error you too can perform some microwave magic!!

Shell inside small plastic resealable bag.

Shell/Bag inside the microwave.

Shellfish with operculum removed.

Remainder of shellfish removed with dental tool.

Shell getting a vigorous wash.

Be Aware of Laws Relating to Shells

by Selwyn Bracegirdle

Protected Objects Act 1975 (Supercedes the Antiquities Act)

The Act protects important New Zealand objects, including from being illegally traded.

Among other things it prohibits unapproved export of a specimen of an extant or extinct rock or mineral, animal, or other organism or fossil or part thereof including any development stage, shell, or skeletal or supporting element, of which there is not a sufficient selection in New Zealand public collections to define the variation, range, and environmental context of the taxon or object. It includes type specimens.

For more information visit:

www.mch.govt.nz/protected-objects/

Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)

CITES is an international treaty drawn up in 1973 to protect wildlife against over-exploitation, and to prevent international trade from threatening species. There are currently 172 countries/states party to this treaty.

The treaty effectively prevents certain species from being taken 'across borders'.

Visit the CITES website for information on what species are covered by this treaty:

www.cites.org/

The Wildlife Act 1953 and New Zealand Landsnails

All species of the *Powelliphanta* genus are absolutely protected under the Wildlife Act 1953.

Not only are the live snails protected but the Department of Conservation also states on their website "Don't take empty shells from snail habitat areas. These are formed from calcium in the environment, so it is important that the calcium is returned back to the environment for other snails to use in the future.

For more information visit:

www.doc.govt.nz/

Paper Review by Pat Lakeman

"Techniques for collecting, handling, preparing, storing and examining small molluscan specimens."

Daniel L. Geiger, Bruce A. Marshall, Winston F. Ponder, Takenori Sasaki and Anders Warén. Molluscan Research 27(1), Malacological Society of Australasia, 2007

This paper will be of keen interest to that special breed of shell collectors who are interested in micromolloscs (shells <5mm), but it also contains some information very useful to those who collect larger shells.

As context, we collectors should remember that approx 45% of NZ marine shells are smaller than 5 mm at maturity, and a further 28% are in the size range 5-15 mm at maturity. These figures result from a recent review by Bruce Marshall of all of the (currently) 3144 species of shelled marine mollusc species from the NZEEZ. So, roughly, only one quarter of NZ sea shells ever exceed 15mm!

This paper is a very comprehensive presentation of collecting methods, sorting and handling techniques and storage requirements for small shells – a summary of the joint experiences of the five authors who between them have over a century of professional work and knowledge to draw from. A large part of the paper is about preparing specimens for scanning electron microscopy. There is also a helpful section on shell handling equipment, a good discussion of issues relating to storage of specimens, and a useful appendix which details frequently-used chemicals.

The merits of various storage materials – including glass, gelatine capsules, plastic, paper – are relevant considerations for any well-housed shell collection. In particular this paper contains a good summary (and further references) about chemical deterioration in the form of Byne's 'disease' and glass 'disease': both of which produce an efflorescence of calcium salts and degrade (and ultimately can completely destroy) shells that are stored under the wrong conditions.

From reading this paper I also gained a real appreciation of the detailed work involved for scientists who produce the illustrated publications about molluscs which I so often enjoy!

Keppel Bay and Townsville Shell Shows 2007

by Heather Smith

What outstanding Shell Shows Keppel Bay and Townsville manage to organise each year. 2006 I attended these shows for the first time and enjoyed every minute. So it was with great excitement I began organising another trip across the Tasman. Last year I flew to Rockhampton and met Bob and Betty Grange and drove from Keppel Bay to Townsville with them. Picnic lunch of king prawns on the pink gingham tablecloth was an unforgettable experience. This year I wanted to drive from Brisbane through to Townsville so I put out a message to Auckland and Wellington Clubs to see if any one wanted to join me. Jenny Raven President of Wellington Club responded.

At Yeppoon this year were the presidents of five Australasian shell clubs. They are left to right (shell club in brackets): Jenny Raven (Wellington), Paul Southgate (Townsville), Allan Davidson (Keppel Bay), Heather Smith (Auckland) and Sally Johnsen (Brisbane).

After very early morning flights from Wellington and Auckland, Jenny and I meet at 9.00 am on Tues. July 10th at Brisbane Airport. We hired a Toyota Corolla. To my horror Jenny announced she'd only slept for 2 and half hours the night before. She was afraid she wouldn't wake up with her alarm so she stayed awake. I had done exactly the same thing in Auckland! So with very little sleep between us we set off for Bunderburg. I drove out of Brisbane. Then Jenny drove while I slept and I drove while she slept. We lunched at Mooluluba and then on to Bunderburg. Allan Limpus met us at the grave yard!! We followed him back to his home where we were spoilt for the next two days. Joan cooked up local dishes of scallops and local fish. Allan showed us his amazing collection of volutes and took us on a ticky tour of Bunderburg. Eng arrived from Singapore so more shells were enjoyed. We also visited the Henkes and saw their collection of shells.

Thursday we headed for Yeppoon. Shell World is a shell collectors dream. It's a must see for anyone interested in shells. And Ena is so amazing having a house full of 6 guests while she is so busy working at Shell World and helping with the show arrangements. Friday morning saw me dropped off at the Keppel Bay Town Hall while Jenny was off to explore the beaches. It was wonderful meeting up with all the local members again. You are so good to us Kiwis. Fortunately my shells had all arrived intact and I set about with many others organising entries. Jean and Diane did a great job marking out where all the entries were to go on the newsprint paper and the many tea towels hanging from the tables all go towards making a successful display. It's great fun seeing each others exhibits and I think we all spend a little time pretending to be judges!! Personally I think the judges can have their job! I congratulate them all on the time they put in and the choices they make. For me, I greatly appreciate their professional decisions and comments they pass on to us both verbally and on those little marking sheets! There were many outstanding exhibits and sometimes there must be 3 firsts but somehow they have to choose one!! This year Dr Mike Hart was given the honour of opening the show and presenting the trophies. He gave an impressive speech on shelling and let us know that there are many contributing factors to the demise of some shell species. Many, many people spent time admiring all the exhibits. As for the exhibitors, we had a busy time talking, looking at all the competition and wheeling and dealing with all those dealers! How do they manage to arrive with more beautiful shells each year? I think they see me coming! I'm so easily tempted when I see a beautiful shell!

It's such a novelty to be picked up by a bus for Saturday night dinner at the bowling club! What a service!! The multi-draw is always a success with heaps of laughter. It's great to have everyone there! Dealers, exhibitors, organisers, friends, travellers, locals and the hard working committee. What a great night and you can even drink as much as you like and get the bus ride home!!!

Sunday comes all too quickly and before you know it, it's time to be packing up. Some of us have great difficulty getting every one of those shells packed before the tables need to go be put away. And then it's time to say goodbye and for lots of us, a move on to Townsville.

Jenny and I spent three nights with the Bob and Betty at Dingo Beach. It didn't yield too many shells but we had some lovely walks and saw some amazing sunrises and sun sets.

Collecting at dawn – Dingo Beach.

On to Townsville. I had a lovely surprise. My daughter and her partner who live in Sydney happened to be attending a wedding on Magnetic Is the same weekend as the shell show! So Friday morning saw us heading to the airport to spend 30 minutes with them!! She's getting married in Sydney on the 1st of Sept. so it was the last time I'll see her before the wedding. Then it was on to the Orchid Rooms to meet all the Townsville members and set up more trays of shells with many other contestants. Once again the standard of trays was high and I thanked my lucky stars that I wasn't judging. It's amazing how an empty hall can be transformed into such a wonderful Shell Show. The pot plants on the tables looked impressive and contribute to a great show. While the judges went into action I spent a delightful Friday evening having dinner at Bev Swan's with Grace Lum Wan and Marg Peach. All day Saturday the Orchid Room buzzed with people talking and viewing the exhibits. I was happy to shop with the local dealers and appreciated picking up some Australian Shells. Paul and I seem to be having our own little competition with cowries and pectens. All in good fun of course! Then off to the Pub for a delicious dinner and the first multi-draw raffle. Those of us who had to fly home breathed a sigh of relief when the big items went to local people! All a load of entertainment. Sunday was another busy day ending with the shell related multi-draw and the busy pack up of shells. A quick goodbye and back to the motel to repack and be organised for a 4 am trip to the airport next morning. The sunrise on the flight from Townsville to Brisbane was stunning.

Back to N.ew Zealand by 3.00 pm and I've been in a classroom ever since!

The BIGGEST THANK YOU to all those Aussie Conchologists who go out of there way to make us Kiwis feel so welcome and give us such a great time. I'll be back!!

The next challenge is the Australian National Shell Show in March 2008 in Brisbane. We plan to be there and look forward to catching up with you all again!

Happy shelling!

Ena at Shell World, Yeppoon.

Penion sp.

This *Penion* specimen comes from the depths of Cook Strait. It is a very nice specimen measuring 103mm by 42mm and recently won 'Best NZ shell over 50mm' at the New Zealand Shell Show in Wellington. I obtained it several years ago from a commercial fisherman working in Cook Strait. I received just one bag containing about five shells from this contact before the boat was laid up and became a rusting hulk at Miramar wharf. Eventually it was towed into Cook Strait and sunk. I recall the bag contained a circular saw shell but the shell that interested me most was the *Penion*. Initially I thought it was the largest *Aeneator* I had ever seen. However, Bruce Marshall at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa confirmed that it was indeed a species of *Penion*.

Its species name is a different story. Far more specimens have come to light since these shells were first identified as can be seen from a look in Te Papa's extensive collection. The typical *Penion sulcata* and *cuvierianus* shapes are fairly easy to recognise but between them and *P. ormesi*, *chathamensis*, and *fairfieldae* particularly, there are plenty of specimens displaying a gradual intergrading in shape. There are a few that look identical to my one, but the large number of intergrades between it and specimens from other parts of the country shows why some researcher has a large job ahead of them sorting out the limits of variation and validity of the various named forms. I am grateful to Bruce for demonstrating this to me and why this Penion, like some other species I find, must be named "sp." for now. It remains, however, an interesting and handsome specimen. JENNY RAVEN

Pictobalcis articulata

(Sowerby, 1834)

One shell that I always enjoy finding is *Pictobalcis articulata*, a small, smooth, tall-spired shell, shining white with brown blotches, which belongs to the family Eulimidae. I have only found it at Taupiri Bay in Northland, so finding it also means that I am in a very favourite place! Since my first visit there in the early 1980s I have visited regularly, often though not always finding *P. articulata*. In October 2006 (with Jenny Raven and Mary Agnes Wotton) I found three examples, but all were damaged. One of my best examples was found in February 2007. It is 23mm long, and was washed up very fresh with remnants of dead animal inside (some is still there!).

Eulimidae don't get coverage in the illustrated shell 'encyclopaedias' – since most species are very small and relatively little is known about them. In his 1983 revision, Anders Warén wrote that it is "impossible to give a brief definition of a group that is so variable and incompletely known as the family Eulimidae." He describes them as "always parasitic, more or less permanently attached to the host which, with two exceptions, are echinoderms" (eg starfish and sea urchins). Warén says about 1250 species of Eulimidae have been described. About 425 of these names are based on fossil species. His work has led him to the assumption that though

many described species are probably synonyms, the total number of Eulimidae species will far exceed the number described so far.

Warén describes the characteristics of Eulimidae shells as usually present, but very variable in shape (some are tall-spired, both curved and straight; others are more rounded). In most cases the shell is straight, conical, with flat whorls, a polished surface and a high spire, and rather solid.

The NZ checklist lists 40 species of Eulimidae in 17 genera, most species being in genus *Melanella*. All are endemic EXCEPT *P. articulata*. Powell described its distribution as: Northland east coast between Bland Bay and Whangamumu; Australia (type); southern Queensland, New South Wales and Norfolk Island. Specimens of *P. articulata* in the Te Papa collection have localities which include other Northland sites, eg Matai Bay and Three Kings Islands, as well as sites in Eastland – Te Kaha and Lottin Point. The best specimen in the national collection (in my opinion) is from Taupiri Bay: a 30mm beauty collected in February 1983 by a past president of Wellington Shell Club, the late Peter Jamieson. PAT LAKEMAN

References:

Generic Revision of the Family Eulimidae. Warén, A. 1983. Journal of Molluscan Studies, Supplement 13.

Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from the NZ Exclusive Economic Zone. Spencer, HG., RC Willan, BA Marshall & TJ Murray. 2002. http://www.molluscs.otago.ac.nz/index.html

NZ Mollusca: Marine, Land and Freshwater Shells. Powell, AWB. 1979. Collins.

Semicassis labiata

(Perry, 1811)

This specimen was found as an empty shell at Tokahaki Reef north of Kapiti Island at 17 metres on 10 January 2006 by a local diver.

It measures approximately 64mm high and features a beautifully mature lip.

This is the southern most record of this species on the west coast of New Zealand.

It is impossible to be clear about the extent to which this species may be established in the area or for how long. Is this species metamorphosing south? Is this because of warming? Has this species been present over a long period time in limited numbers but because of limited diving in the area not been found until now?

It is worth being aware of the presence of this species in the region. In fact it would be good for collectors to not assume that every Semicassis they see on the Kapiti coast is *Semicassis pyrum.*

SELWYN BRACEGIRDLE

Cymatium parthenopeum

(Salis Marschlins, 1793)

Within a couple of days of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami in Southeast Asia live specimens of *Cymatium parthenopeum parthenopeum* began washing up in small quantities along the Kapiti coast (lower west coast of the North Island of New Zealand). This was confirmed by shell collectors at both Waikane Beach and Paraparaumu Beach.

The specimen photographed is from Waikanae Beach measuring 101.5mm high.

SELWYN BRACEGIRDLE

Collectors and their Collections photos from Heather Smith

Bruce Marshall – Malacologist and Collection Manager of Mollusca, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Kris Woods – Wellington.

Heather Smith – Auckland.

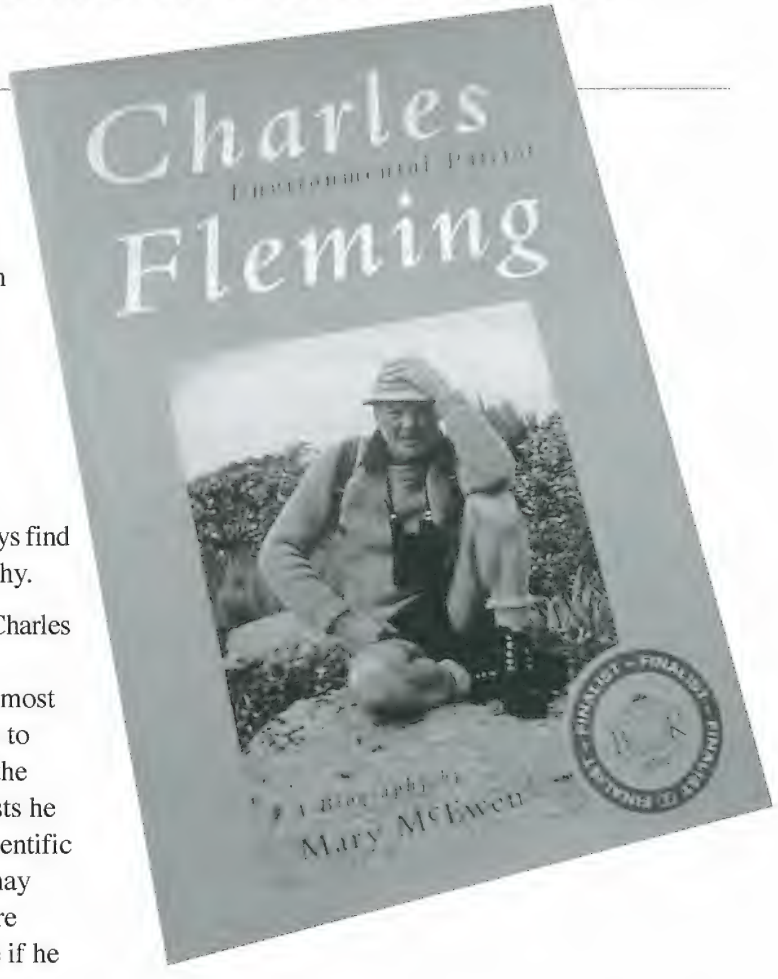
Allan and Joan Limpus – Bundaberg, Queensland.

Jenny Raven – Wellington.

Mike and Val Hart – Auckland.

Charles Fleming – Environmental Patriot

A Biography by Mary McEwen



Introducing this book

Selwyn Bracegirdle

Published in 2005 by Craig Potton Publishing and written by Mary McEwen, Charles Fleming's second daughter. 382 pages with numerous photos.

What a delight it was to read this book. Having only known 'of' Sir Charles Fleming KBE, I feel this book has provided me with insights into his upbringing and influences that saw him explore the various fields that ultimately made Charles Fleming the 'Environmental Patriot'. I now 'know' much about the man and his interests ranging, in varying degrees, through paleontology, geology, ornithology, entomology, biogeography, biology and ecology.

Members of shell clubs in New Zealand will be fascinated by the 'first encounters' with people like AWB Powell and other acquaintences/ friendships in his life with well known characters such as RA Falla, John Marwick, Dick Dell, Peter Bull, CER Bucknill, etc.

The book is well supported with black & white photographs showing the many people Charles associated with as well as items such as wonderful homemade Christmas cards.

There are very thorough and helpful 'references', 'bibliography' and 'index' sections at the back of the book, which you don't always find with a biography.

The aspect of Charles Fleming that fascinated me most was his ability to inter-connect the various interests he had to gain scientific insights that may have been more difficult to see if he had been focused on just one discipline.

If you get the opportunity to read this book you will not be disappointed to learn more about a scientist who contributed signicantly to the understanding of our natural history.

And you may find something in your own collection, as I have, that has a connection with Charles.

I have a *Cominella nassoides nodicincta* that Charles collected while on the Cape Expedition, an expedition to provide early reports should German boats visit the subantarctic islands for wood fuel. This was just one example of how pertinent I found 'Charles Fleming – Environmental Patriot'.

Cominella nassoides nodicincta

(Martens, 1878)

Collected by Fleming 22/9/1942 from Enderby Island, Auckland Islands – from the collection of Selwyn Bracegirdle.

Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences

Charles with two of his mentors in paleontology, Jack Marwick and AWB Powell, at the mouth of Butler's Creek on Otatoko Beach near Wanganui.

Charles at the Geological Survey 1962 with specimens of the genus *Pecten*.

A Day in the Life of a Shell Collector

by Pat Lakeman

A whimsical diversion paying huge respects for its inspiration to the late Betty Andrews, shell collector and Wellington club member from Wanganui. Surnames of club members (at time of writing) fill the gaps to complete the story but beware – vast liberties have been taken with language and your names, none of which are the fault of the editor! Answers are on page 24.

Only last night, thought Graham, I was dressed up to the nines watching a Gilbert & _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1) musical and now, on a freezing cold _ _ _ _ _ _ ' _ (2) morning, after a quick _ _ _ _ _ (3) and breakfast at _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 's (4), here I am going to hunt for the rarest shell in _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (5). _ _ _ _ _ _ (6) earth am I doing? he thinks. He is driving in his van to The _ _ _ _ _ _ (7), home of his sister Dee, and his _ _ _ _ _ (8) nephew Tony, and he would cross _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (9) to get to the coast later in the day.

As Graham reaches the house he hears Dee say "Open the _ _ _ , _ _ _ (10)" and she pauses to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (11) affectionately, as she comes forward with a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (12) face. Hello _ _ _ , _ _ _ (13) said, greeting him warmly. Come in and meet my two _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ (14) and Harry; _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (15) Ed and Lee's son Stan. Ed seems reserved, but Stan introduces himself as _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (16) at the local fish factory. "_ _ _ _ _ _ (17) his own business and is our local black _ _ _ _ _ (18)", says Dee smiling.

They all know Graham's mission, and ask about his chances of success. "I don't have a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (19) ball, but if the sh_ _ _ _ _ _ (20) the beach, we'll find it", says Graham, "and I know someone who will _ _ _ _ _ _ _s (21) of money for it, so let's hope we are lucky!" He invites them all to join him, including Ed who so far has said _ _ _ _ _ _ (22).
"_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (23) do you think?" he asks Dee "– the more eyes looking, the better!"

Dee says that Lee is making soup to take with them, but needs some vegetables and herbs. Tony says let's dig some of _ _ _ ' _ _ _ _ (24) of potatoes, but Dee asks _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _(25) do instead, because they are already dug. Graham offers to gather the fresh herbs. "Get parsley, just the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ves (26)" says Dee, "some salad _ _ _ _ _ _ (27) and water _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ (28) you know the sort of thing. They are all growing out beside the _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ (29)." "Will he know what he's looking for?" asks Lee. "Of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (30) will!" retorts Dee. The result is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _nished (31)with herbs – it _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (32) good, and is sure to warm them on the journey. "Come on _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ (33) it out", Dee says as she puts her thermos on the _ _ _ _ _ _ (34). "Pour in _ _ _ , _ _ _!" (35)

Meanwhile Ed _ _ _ _ _ (36) Graham's knife, and stows it in a _ _ _ _lap (37) sack with various other items including a _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ , (38) umbrella and other tools. "You might want to _ _ _ _ _ _ (39) reduce that gear, make it less heavy to carry", suggests Graham. They all don o_ _ _ _ _ _ts (40) before setting off. "We could go by _ _ _ , _ _ (41) farm bike or on foot", says Dee, "we must _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (42) and a stream at _ _ _ _ ' _ _ _ _ (43) – at the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (44) the church is the best place."

It is a _ _ _tiful (45) day and they decide to walk. As Dee _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (46) walk with Graham past the _ _ _ _ _ _ , (47) she points out local wildlife – _ _ _ _ _s (48) in the air and two grey m_ _ _ _ _ _s (49) in the branches of a tree. Further on there are _ _ _ _ _ (50) in a rock pool. But then Dee coughs, pretending she has _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (51) her throat, and as they fall a little behind the others she speaks quietly, trying to _ _ _ _ _ _ (52) words carefully. "Graham, don't trust Harry, he's a bad _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _an (53) even, so if you find that valuable shell ....." Graham is shocked: "Surely _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (54) right to say that" he responds, "I'd have _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (55) such an accusation carefully if I were you." But Dee shakes her head in warning. She hurries after her son, calling out "Mind that _ _ _ , _ _ _y" (56) as the boy careers down a rocky slope to the beach.

Graham tries to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (57) his thoughts for shell-hunting, and his search begins. At one point he is startled by Harry, who has _ _ _ _ _ (58) up on him, but only to say "I'm going to look over by the _ _ _ _ , _ _ _y (59) shells get washed over there at high tides." The search is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (60) the cold, and Graham's mind wanders – to the warmth of home, his _ _ _ , _ _ , _ _ _ _ _s (61) that are screaming in the air, and the fading sun. After hours of _ _ _ _ing, (62) he _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (63) over to the others. "_ _ _ ' _ _ _ (64) your mind?" asks Dee. They are all _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (65) types, but the cold is biting and they happily agree to return to The Grange via a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (66) cut through the _ _ _ _ _. (67)

As dusk gathers Graham knows he'_ _ _ _ _ (68) to leave im_ _ _ _iately (69) – but that elusive shell will bring him back. He hopes his visit has _ _ _ _ _ _ _ed (70) goodwill with Dee and her friends. As he drives off across the highway tar_ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (71) traffic demands his full attention, and he puts his next visit to the back of his mind for the journey home.

Wellington Shell Club 2006-2007

President: Jenny Raven

Vice Presidents: Doreen Burr, Selwyn Bracegirdle

Secretary: Deirdre Standish • Email: deirdre.standish@clear.net.nz • Telephone 938 6554

Treasurer: Jenny Walton • PO Box 40685, Upper Hutt • Telephone 528 5618

Editor: Selwyn Bracegirdle • 7 Astor Street, Karori, Wellington • Email: creatus@paradise.net.nz • Telephone: 973 9410

Newsletter: Jill Burnet • 84 Brougham Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington • Telephone: 384 7418

Librarian: Pat Lakeman

Sales table and raffles: Kris Woods

Website: Jenny Walton • www.clublist.co.nz/Club_Websites/ Wellington_Shell_Club.aspx

2006 Membership Fees: Single $12 • Family $15 • Overseas $20

Cookia Contributions

Members and other readers are invited to submit contributions (handwritten, typed or electronic) but, preferrably, these should be in the Editor's hand before the end of May for inclusion in that year's issue (look at a recent issue to see the style to follow).

Please use (unless there is a stated reason not to do so given in your manuscript) the molluscan names in the latest *Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone* by H G Spencer, R C Willan, B A Marshall and T J Murray – which is periodically updated at:

www.molluscs.otago.ac.nz/index.html

Authors should also save the editor work by checking the spelling of these names very carefully. Following standard practice, in long lists of species the species names should NOT be listed in alphabetical order but in systematic sequence (with Family headings) as in the 'Checklist'. Bruce Marshall, our 'resident malacologist', is very willing to check identifications or species names for any members who would like his help. Please take advantage of this generous offer. The Editor is always happy to discuss proposed contributions with members.

***Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone*:**

This electronic checklist is a compilation of information that has already been published; it does not contain any original name changes or new records. Therefore, it can be regarded as a "tool of convenience" giving the latest names and where to find the publications in which any new changes will have appeared. New name changes are regularly given in a section entitled "Recent Changes to the Web Page" with a reference to the publication in which the change was made. This list is linked to our website. The Mollusca Section library at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is the most comprehensive collection of the world literature on Mollusca in the country, and the original sources of any name changes can easily be consulted, by arrangement with Bruce Marshall, if needed.

Wellington Shell Club Publications

Cookia is the journal of the Wellington Shell Club and is published annually, containing articles and smaller items of interest on shells, shell collecting, and molluscs as well as other related marine topics.

Cookia was first published in 1976; prior to this the Club published a *Circular*, then a *Bulletin*, as well as occassional *Study Notes* on various families of Mollusca.

PUBLICATIONS TO DATE

1956–1965 *Circular* 1 to 21
1967–1975 *Bulletin* 1 to 36
1976–1977 *Cookia* Volume 1, Nos 1, 2, 3
1977–1978 *Cookia* Volume 2, Nos 1, 2, 3
1979–1980 *Cookia* Volume 3, Nos 1, 2, 3
1980–1981 *Cookia* Volume 4, Nos 1, 2, 3
1982–1984 *Cookia* Volume 5, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4
1985–1992 *Cookia* Volume 6, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4
1993–1996 *Cookia* Volume 7, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4 [Index]
1997 *Cookia* Volume 8
1998 *Cookia* Volume 9
1999 *Cookia* Volume 10
2000 *Cookia* Volume 11
2001 *Cookia* Volume 12
2002 *Cookia* Volume 13
2003 *Cookia* Volume 14 [The Shell Lists]
2003 *Cookia* Volume 15
2004 *Cookia* Volume 16
2005 *Cookia* Volume 17
2006 *Cookia* Volume 18
(*Cookia* Volume 7, No 4, is an index of all articles in the Club's publications to 1996)

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of *Cookia* are available at cost plus postage; individual articles, and copies of the Bulletins, Circulars and Study Notes can be ordered at 10c per page plus postage, from Jill Burnet, 84 Brougham Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand; or see our homepage at **www.clublist.co.nz/Club_Websites/ Wellington_Shell_Club.aspx**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SHELL COLLECTOR ANSWERS

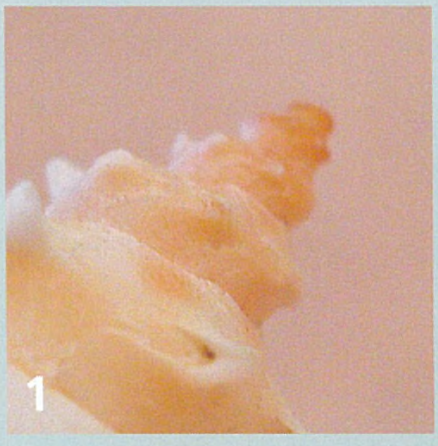
1) SULLIVAN
2) WINTERS
3) SHAVE
4) MCDONALD
5) BRITTON
6) WOTTON
7) GRANGE
8) YOUNG
9) HERLAND
10) DAWSON
11) PATTERSON
12) SMILLIE
13) BRODIE
14) COOKSLEY
15) HARRISON
16) FOREMAN
17) EDMUNDS
18) SMITH
19) CRYSTALL
20) ELLISON
21) PAYTON
22) LITTLE
23) WIDDICOMBE
24) MARSTON
25) WILLIAMS
26) BOTTOMLEY
27) BURNET
28) CRESSWELL
29) BARNS-GRAHAM
30) COURSEY
31) ABRUGAR
32) SCHMELZ
33) STANDISH
34) TIBBLE
35) MORLEY
36) HONES
37) BURR
38) BRACEGIRDLE
39) CULLEN
40) VERCOE
41) BUSBY
42) CROSSLAND
43) TOWNSEND
44) CROSBY
45) BEU
46) ANDERSON
47) BARNES
48) RAVEN
49) AAMODT
50) KREBS
51) FLEMING
52) FRASER
53) MANVILLE
54) JOUVERNAUX
55) THORNTON
56) WALTON
57) MARSHALL
58) SNOOK
59) LAKEMAN
60) HARDING
61) VAN TIGGELE
62) NEAL
63) LIMPUS
64) WATSON
65) HARDIE
66) SHORTT
67) WOODS
68) SCOTT
69) MEAD
70) FOSTER
71) MACFARLANE

GET THE POINT – HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THAT SHELL? ANSWERS

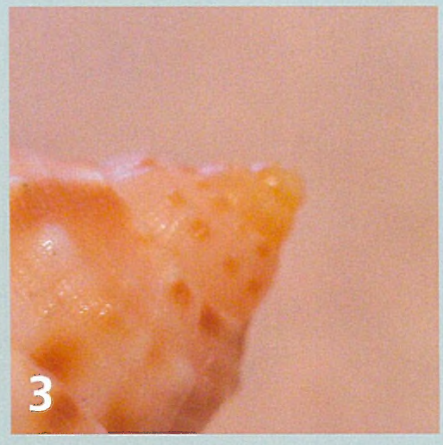
1 – Poirieria zelandica • 2 – Astrofusus glans • 3 – Semicassis royana
4 – Aeneator benthicola • 5 – Alcithoe arabica • 6 – Cantharidus opalus
7 – Dicathais orbita • 8 – Tonna cerevisina • 9 – Borecscala zelebori

Get the point – how well do you know the shell?

Identify the nine NZ shells below from the photographic portion shown. Answers are on page twenty four.

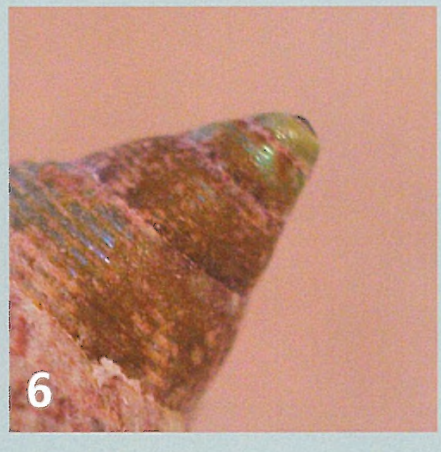

1

2


3

4

5


6

7

8

9